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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

REPORT

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SUBJECT Warships in Ventspils

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1. On 13 August 1955 at 1800 hours, there were about 25 small ships by the city quay, and of these, 12 carried the green coast guard flag. No vessels had more than one funnel and there was only one submarine.

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The conning tower was open aft. In the after part of the conning tower, there was a short-barrel gun covered with canvas, with the barrel pointing aft. On the foredeck close to the conning tower there was another gun, also covered.¹

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2. Later on in August, there were no naval vessels [redacted] in Ventpils. Fifteen smaller vessels were seen; of these, five were KRONSTADT-Class submarine chasers. One submarine, [redacted] lay next to an ex-German coal-driven minesweeper with two funnels [redacted] (see sketch). No naval vessels were observed outside the harbor on 1 September. In the harbor on the southern bank of the river there were about 30 small destroyers, patrol boats, etc.; among the biggest vessels, [redacted]

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It had two funnels, the after one smaller than the forward one, and a very large, flat quarter-deck.

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On 12 September at 1030 hours, five n[aval vessels with two funnels, about 30 smaller naval vessels, and one sub-marine were moored along the city quay.

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On the foremast there was a yard with two radar antennas; one was a navigation-like radar, and the other a Yagi. The vessel had two funnels, the aft one somewhat smaller than the forward one. Aft

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the funnels there was a small mast. There were one or two nests (sic) with antiaircraft ordnance, and aft a gun in a closed shield of the same size as the two forward ones. These five vessels were alike, old, and not very well kept. The 30 smaller vessels were of several types.

At the city quay there were also a couple of receiving-ships.

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3. On 23 September at 0430 hours, there were about 30 naval vessels by the city quay. Six of the vessels were big and had two funnels. They were lying in groups of three. The rest were smaller patrol vessels or the like.

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The vessels were alike and about 100 m long, with flush deck and two upright funnels, the after one definitely smaller than the forward one. Each had only one mast with a yard on which there was something resembling radar. On the quarter-deck there was a house or something that might have been a gun platform. At the city quay there also was a big naval vessel about 100 m long, with a long fore-castle.

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4. The radar station which stood on the southern beach by the entrance was a 25 m high mast with a scanner on top. Next to the mast there was a pole with a dome-like object on the top. This post was a couple of meters lower than the radar mast.² Around the mast there were a few low buildings or sheds in which the crew, must have been quartered. The whole area was closed off by a fence, but right below the station the beach was open for swimmers.

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The radio station's two high masts were each equipped with two red lights which were lighted every night.

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5. Across from the import quay on the opposite river bank and somewhat away from the shore, three wooden towers were being built on the open field. They might have been for loud speakers or guardtowers. On the peak of the southern mole, some building projects were being carried out.

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Up in the harbor by the bridge which crossed the river, there were five small oil tanks on the eastern bank. At the time of observation, there were two railroad tank cars by the tanks. Toward the river, there was an oil quay where a vessel was bunkering. The export quay was about 240 m long, and was equipped with six well kept power-driven cranes.

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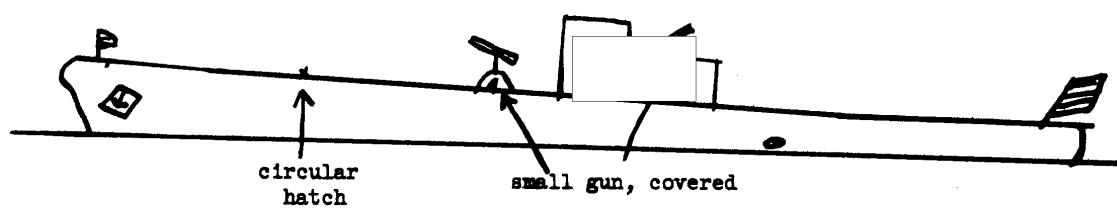
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Sketch of Submarine at Ventapils

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